MARVEL COMICS
THE PUNISHER
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THE PUBLIC ENEMY
DIRECT EDITION
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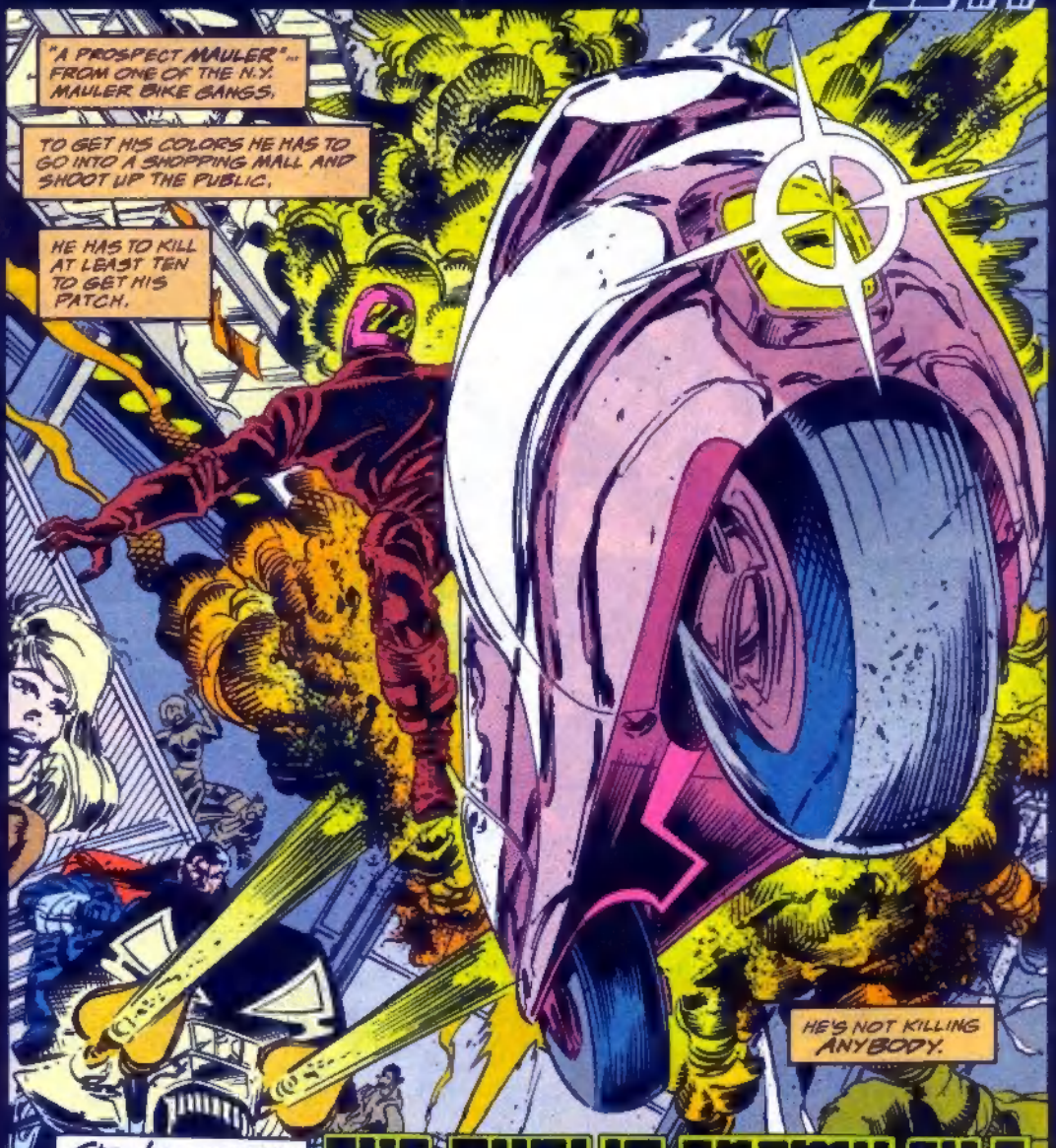
HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD-FASHIONED PUNISHMENT ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT JAKE GALLOWS... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE PUBLIC EYE POLICE FORCE BY DAY. AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE PUNISHER 2099


"A PROSPECT MAULER"... FROM ONE OF THE N.Y. MAULER BIKE GANGS.
TO GET HIS COLORS HE HAS TO GO INTO A SHOPPING MALL AND SHOOT UP THE PUBLIC.
HE HAS TO KILL AT LEAST TEN TO GET HIS PATCH.
HE'S NOT KILLING ANYBODY.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE PUBLIC ENEMY FILE

PART THREE

SHOPPING MAUL!

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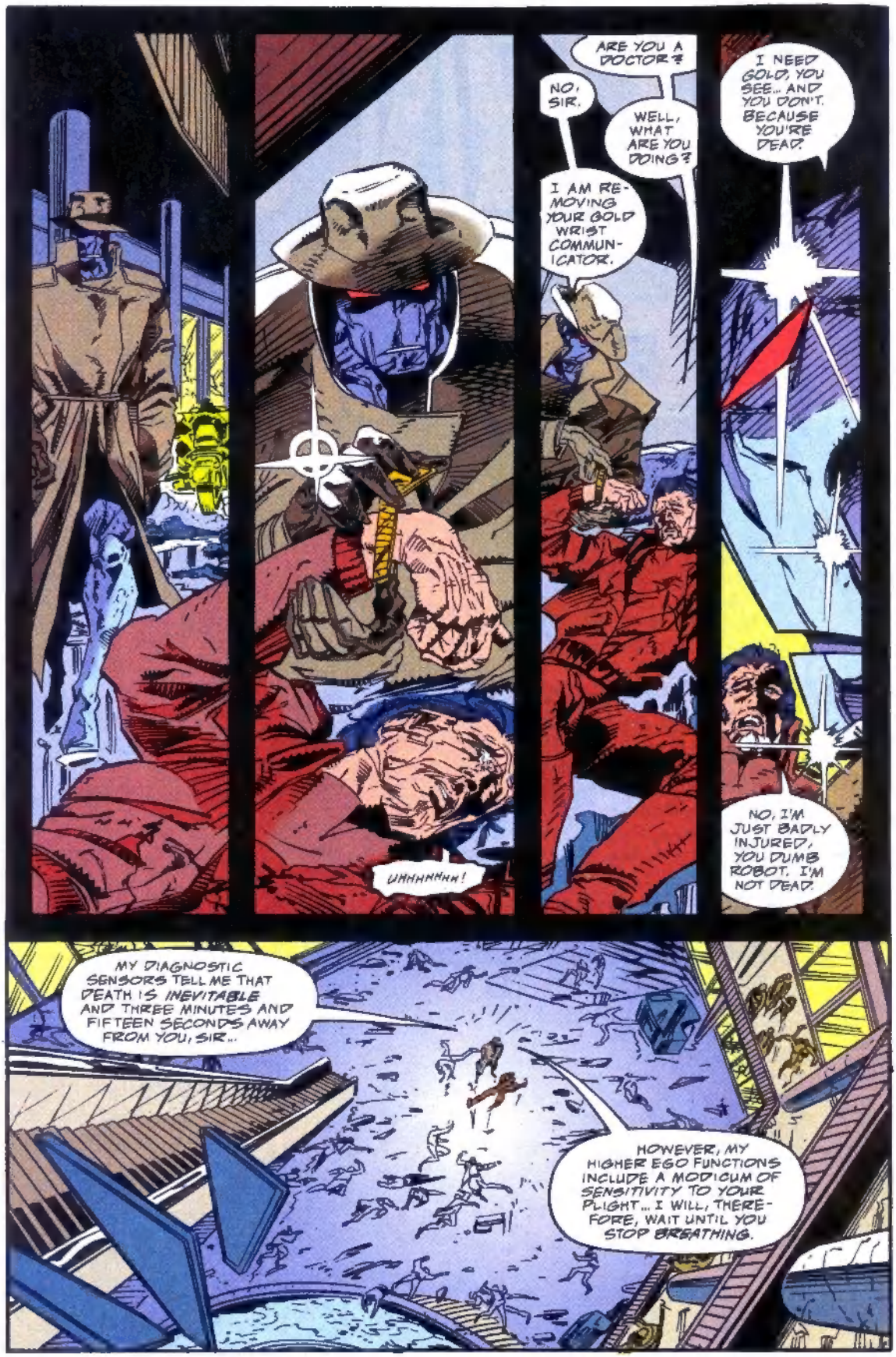
SHOCK! THE PUNISHER! IF I KILL HIM THEY'LL MAKE ME SERGEANT-AT-ARMS!
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, PUNK...
I'M TAKING YOU DOWN...
NO, PUNISHER..! PROMISE ME WE'RE NOT GOING TO KILL THIS GUY.
BUTT OUT, JAKE! THIS SCUM'S GOTTA BE PUNISHED!

LOOK AT THEM ALL... LIKE SHEEP... THEY THINK THEY'RE WATCHING A HOLO-DRAMA...
OH, NO! THIS CITY JUST ISN'T SAFE ANYMORE!
NONE OF THEM WOULD THINK OF STANDING AGAINST THEIR ATTACKER...
SHOCKIN' SHEEP..! THEY'RE ALWAYS WAITING FOR SOMEONE LIKE THE PUNISHER... OR SPIDER-MAN... OR ME TO TURN UP AND SAVE THEM.
THANK THE STARS FOR THE PUNISHER! AT LEAST HE TURNS UP BEFORE PEOPLE START GETTING KILLED... UNLIKE THE PUBLIC EYE.
THE SHEEP ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE PUNISHER IN ACTION... SO, WHILE HE TAKES CARE OF THE BIKER...

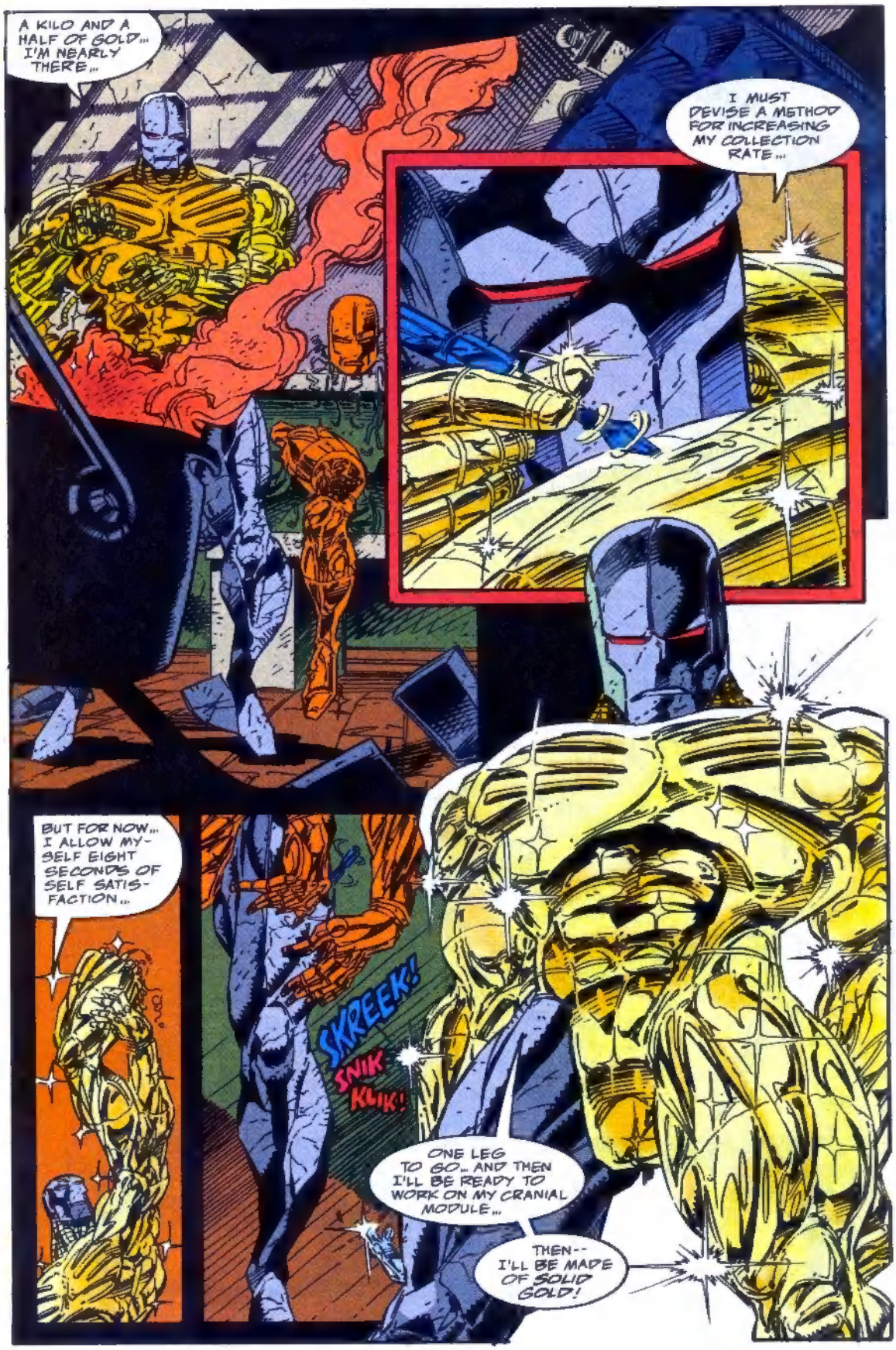
I'LL WIPE OUT THE GAPING PUBLIC!
YOU KNOW, PUNISHER, BETWEEN US, WE COULD REALLY CLEAN UP THIS CITY!
WHAT THE--?
HE-HE'S BLOWN THEM ALL AWAY! GOT AT LEAST THIRTY! WHICH CHAPTER'S HE WITH?

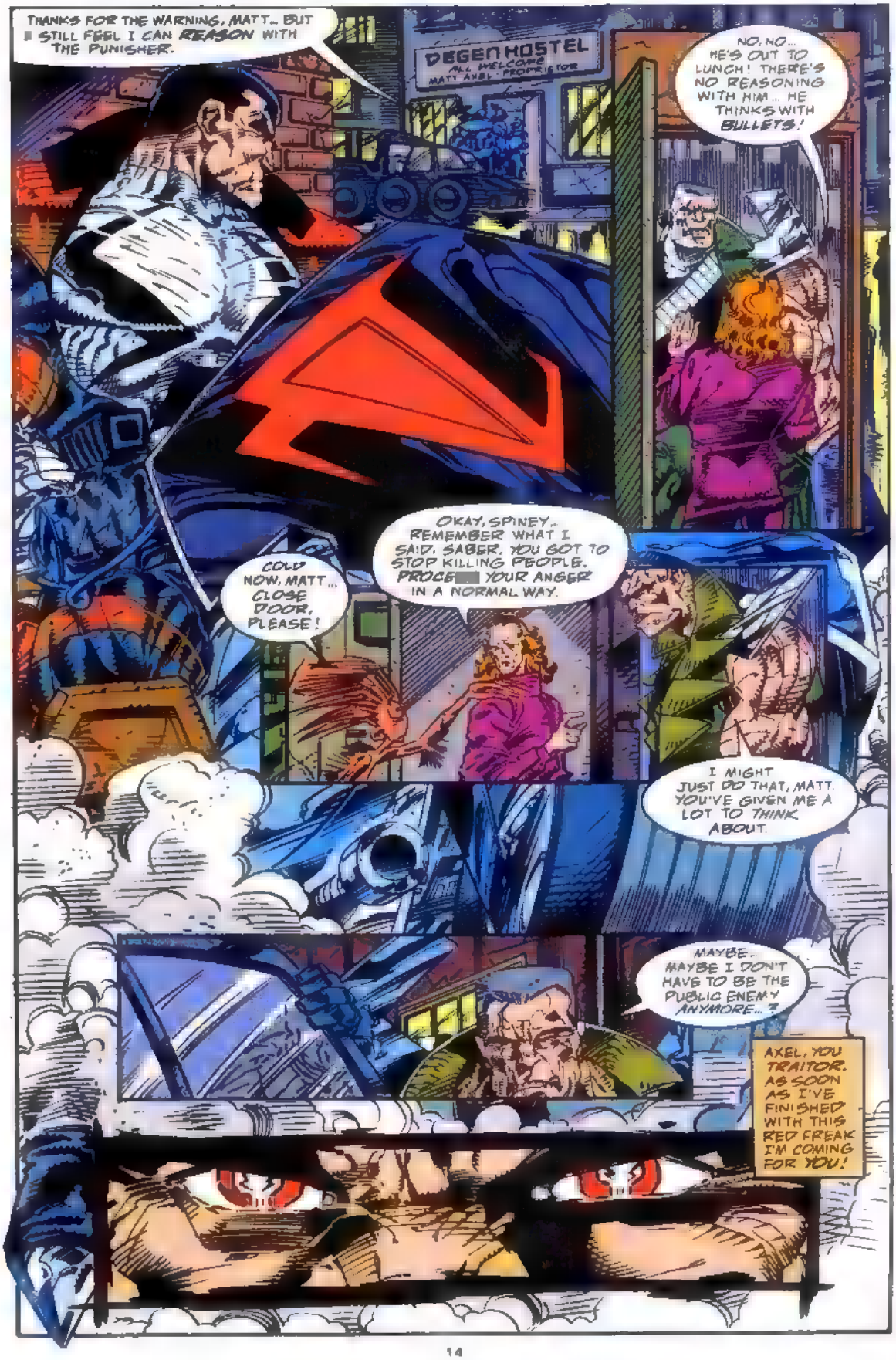
SHUT UP!
HOWEVER, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FORMALLY INTRODUCE MYSELF TO YOU...
WE'LL MEET UP LATER AND I'LL EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF MY WORK.
A MAN LIKE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND... HOW THE PUBLIC ARE THE REAL ENEMY...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING... I'M COMING FOR YOU, MURDERER!
SHOCK! WHERE IS HE? HOW DID HE RUN SO FAST?
THAT WAY!
HE-HE JUST RIPPED IT OPEN! HE'S DOWN THERE, MR. PUNISHER, SIR!
BLAST! I'LL NEVER TRACK HIM NOW!

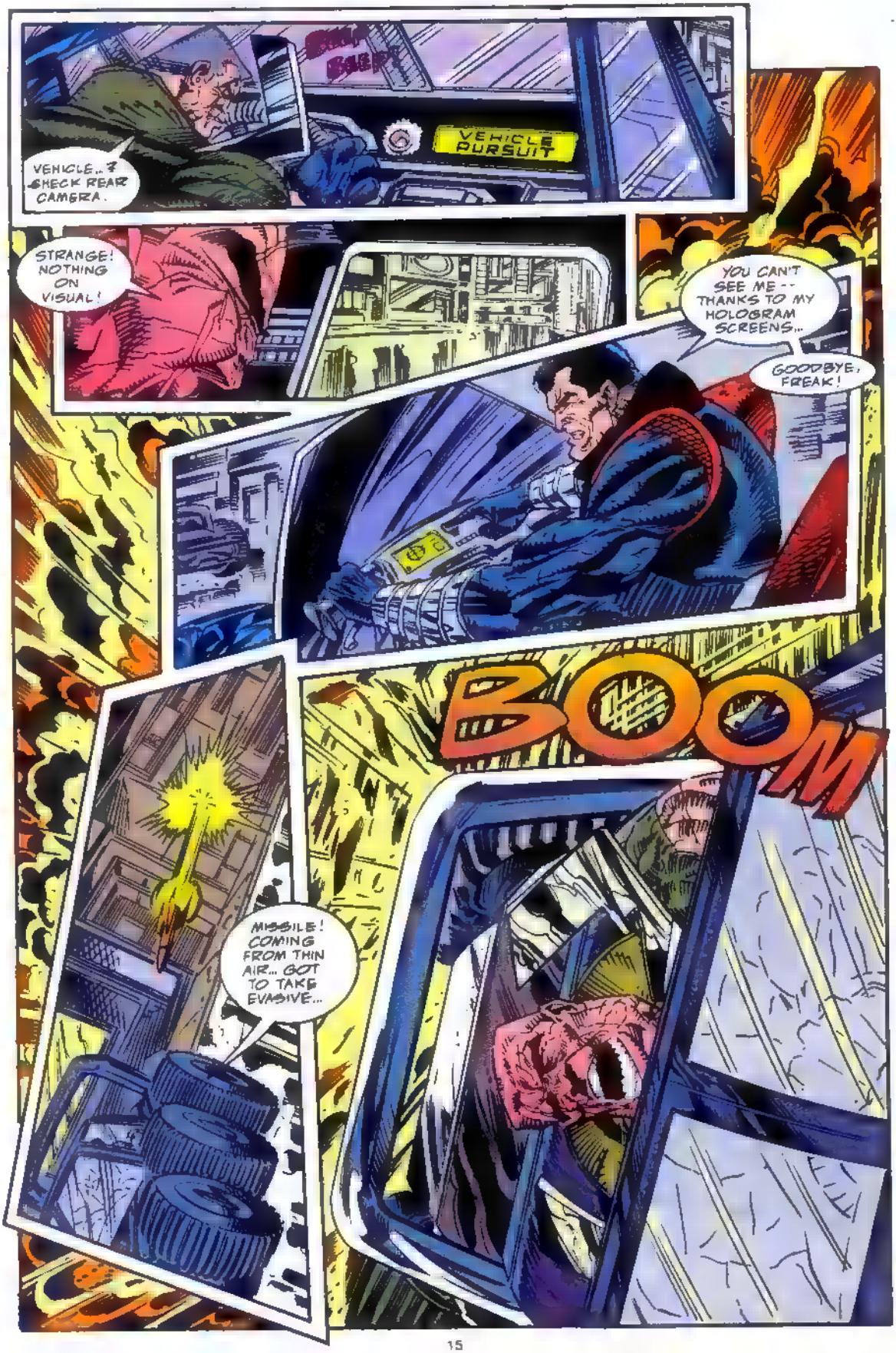

UHHHHHHH!
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
NO, SIR.
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I AM REMOVING YOUR GOLD WRIST COMMUNICATOR.
I NEED GOLD, YOU SEE... AND YOU DON'T. BECAUSE YOU'RE DEAD.
NO, I'M JUST BADLY INJURED, YOU DUMB ROBOT. I'M NOT DEAD.
MY DIAGNOSTIC SENSORS TELL ME THAT DEATH IS INEVITABLE AND THREE MINUTES AND FIFTEEN SECONDS AWAY FROM YOU, SIR...
HOWEVER, MY HIGHER EGO FUNCTIONS INCLUDE A MODICUM OF SENSITIVITY TO YOUR PLIGHT... I WILL, THEREFORE, WAIT UNTIL YOU STOP BREATHING.

JAKE--TISSUE STILL HAS TO GROW AROUND YOUR NEW ARM... AND YOU'RE NOT WELL IN THE HEAD... NOT WELL...
YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO GO AFTER THE PUBLIC ENEMY.
THE PUNISHER SAYS HE'S GOT TO DIE, MATT. I HAVE TO SAY I AGREE WITH HIM.
LISTEN TO YOURSELF... THE PUNISHER AND JAKE ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
I KNOW HOW IT SEEMS, MATT... BUT I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL... WE'RE WORKING ON IT TOGETHER.
SIT DOWN, JAKE... SIT DOWN...
...LET ME JUST RUN A PSYCH TEST. ASK YOU A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE YOUR STATE OF MIND?
O.K... HOW OLD ARE YOU?
THIRTY SIX... CALIBER!
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
ON THE EDGE.
WHAT'S TODAY'S DATE?
PUNISHMENT DAY!
LOOK, I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THIS, MATT... I'M GOING AFTER THE PUBLIC ENEMY AND THAT'S THAT.
GET ME THE PLASMA CANNON, WILL YOU?

OKAY, JAKE... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT OUR FRIENDSHIP ON THE LINE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MATT?
I'M ASK-ING YOU NOT TO DO THIS... YOU SEE... YOU SEE...
I KNOW THIS GUY... HIS NAME'S SABER HAGEN. I BROUGHT HIM UP...
HE-HE WAS LIKE A SON TO ME, JAKE.
HIS FAMILY WERE KILLED... JUST LIKE YOURS... DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S SO MUCH LIKE YOU... SO MUCH...
HIS PAIN JUST LED HIM TO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS... HE--
I'M SORRY, MATT... I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
WE BOTH DO...
...BUT IF YOU DON'T SEE THE DIFFERENCE... THEN YOU'VE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN I HAVE. THIS GUY'S A MASS MURDERER!
HE'S GOT TO GO DOWN...
NOW. GET ME MY PLASMA CANNON--!


A KILO AND A HALF OF GOLD... I'M NEARLY THERE...
I MUST DEVISE A METHOD FOR INCREASING MY COLLECTION RATE...
BUT FOR NOW... I ALLOW MYSELF EIGHT SECONDS OF SELF SATISFACTION...
SKREEK!
SNIK
KLIK!
ONE LEG TO GO... AND THEN I'LL BE READY TO WORK ON MY CRANIAL MODULE...
THEN-- I'LL BE MADE OF SOLID GOLD!

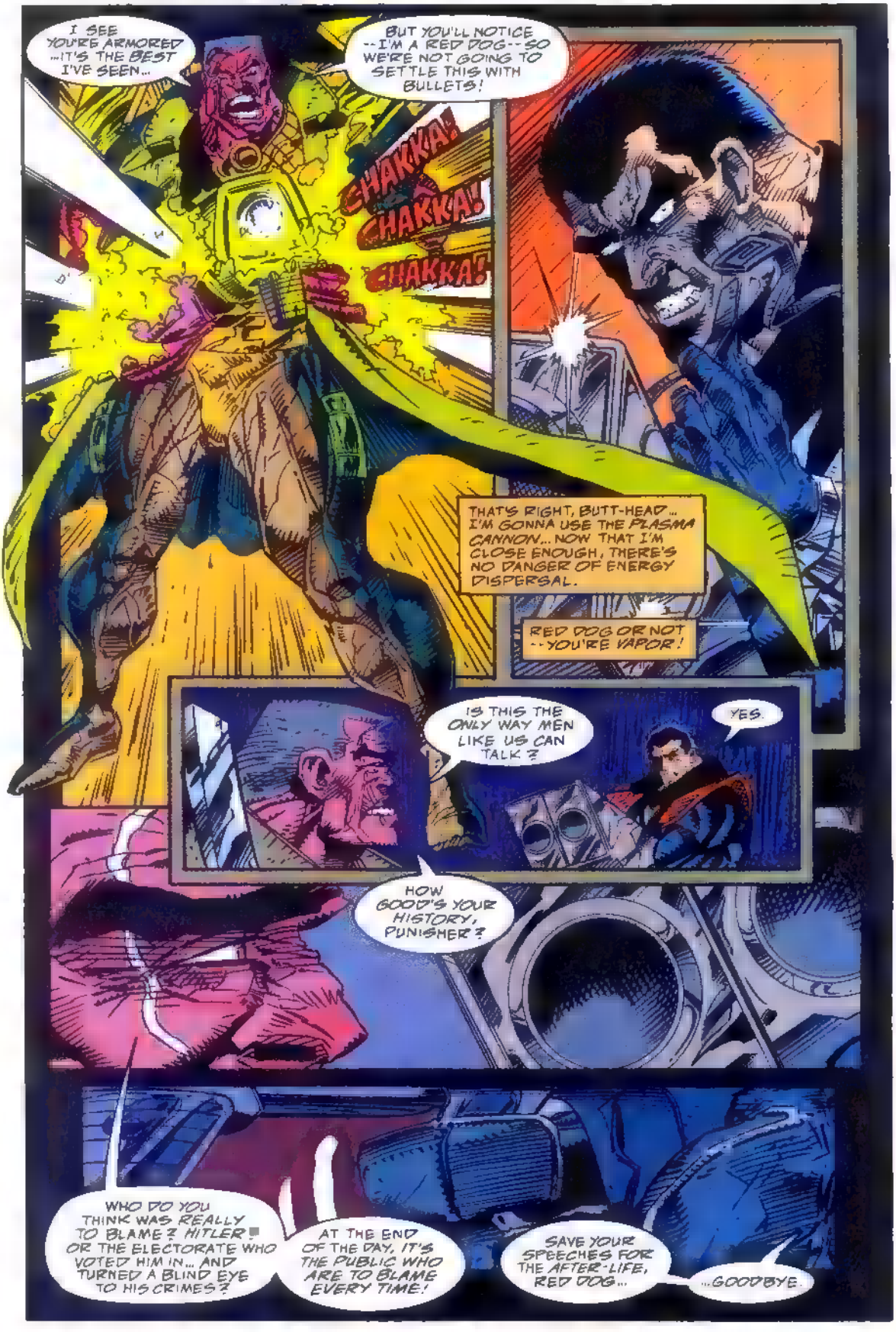

THANKS FOR THE WARNING, MATT... BUT I STILL FEEL I CAN REASON WITH THE PUNISHER.
DEGEN HOSTEL
ALL WELCOME
MATT AXEL - PROPRIETOR
NO, NO... HE'S OUT TO LUNCH! THERE'S NO REASONING WITH HIM... HE THINKS WITH BULLETS!
OKAY, SPINEY.. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID, SABER, YOU GOT TO STOP KILLING PEOPLE. PROCE[redacted] YOUR ANGER IN A NORMAL WAY.
COLD NOW, MATT... CLOSE DOOR, PLEASE!
I MIGHT JUST DO THAT, MATT. YOU'VE GIVEN ME A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.
MAYBE... MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO BE THE PUBLIC ENEMY ANYMORE...?
AXEL, YOU TRAITOR. AS SOON AS I'VE FINISHED WITH THIS RED FREAK I'M COMING FOR YOU!

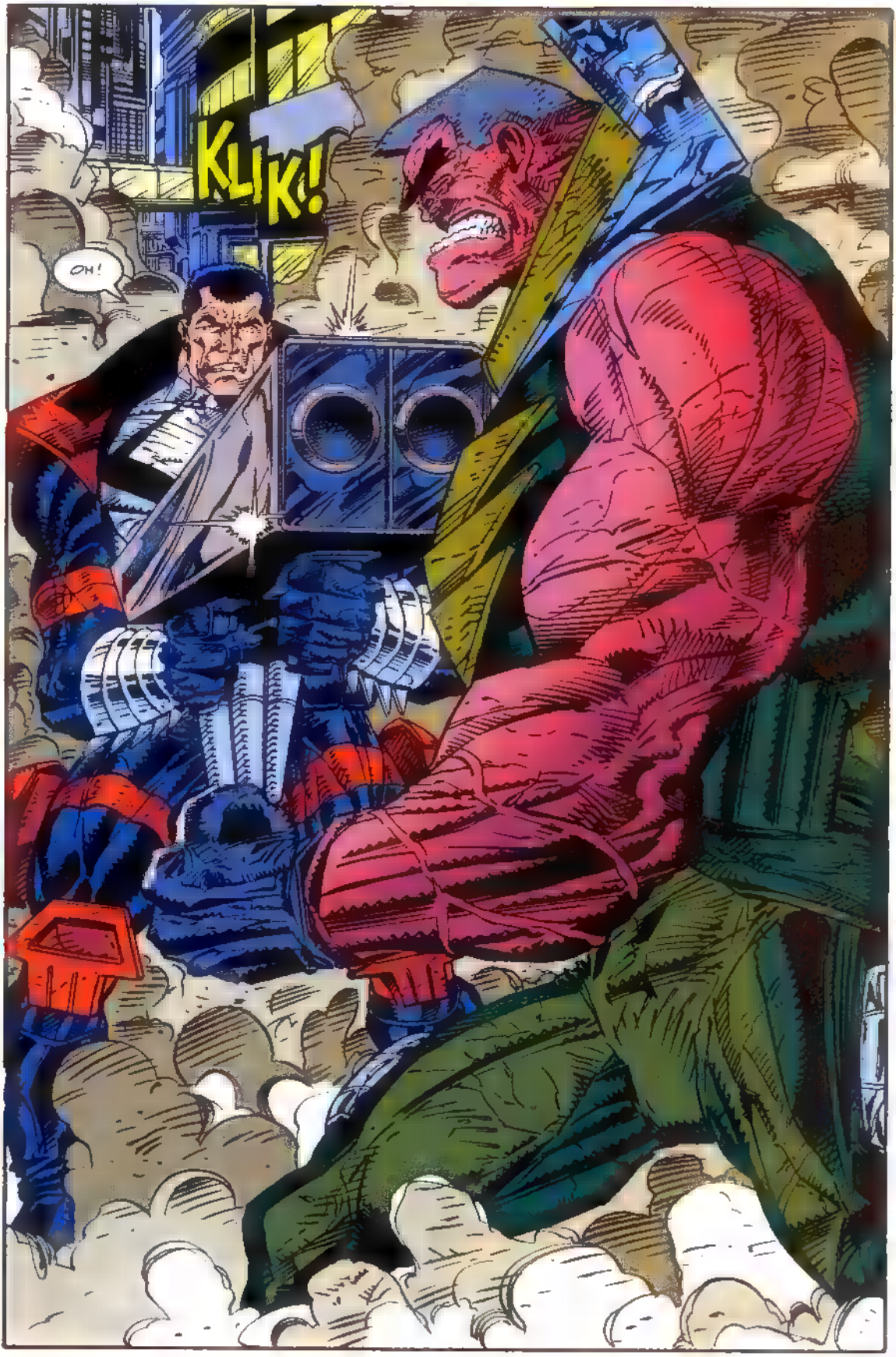

VEHICLE PURSUIT
VEHICLE... CHECK REAR CAMERA.
STRANGE! NOTHING ON VISUAL!
YOU CAN'T SEE ME -- THANKS TO MY HOLOGRAM SCREENS...
GOODBYE, FREAK!
BOOM
MISSILE! COMING FROM THIN AIR... GOT TO TAKE EVASIVE...

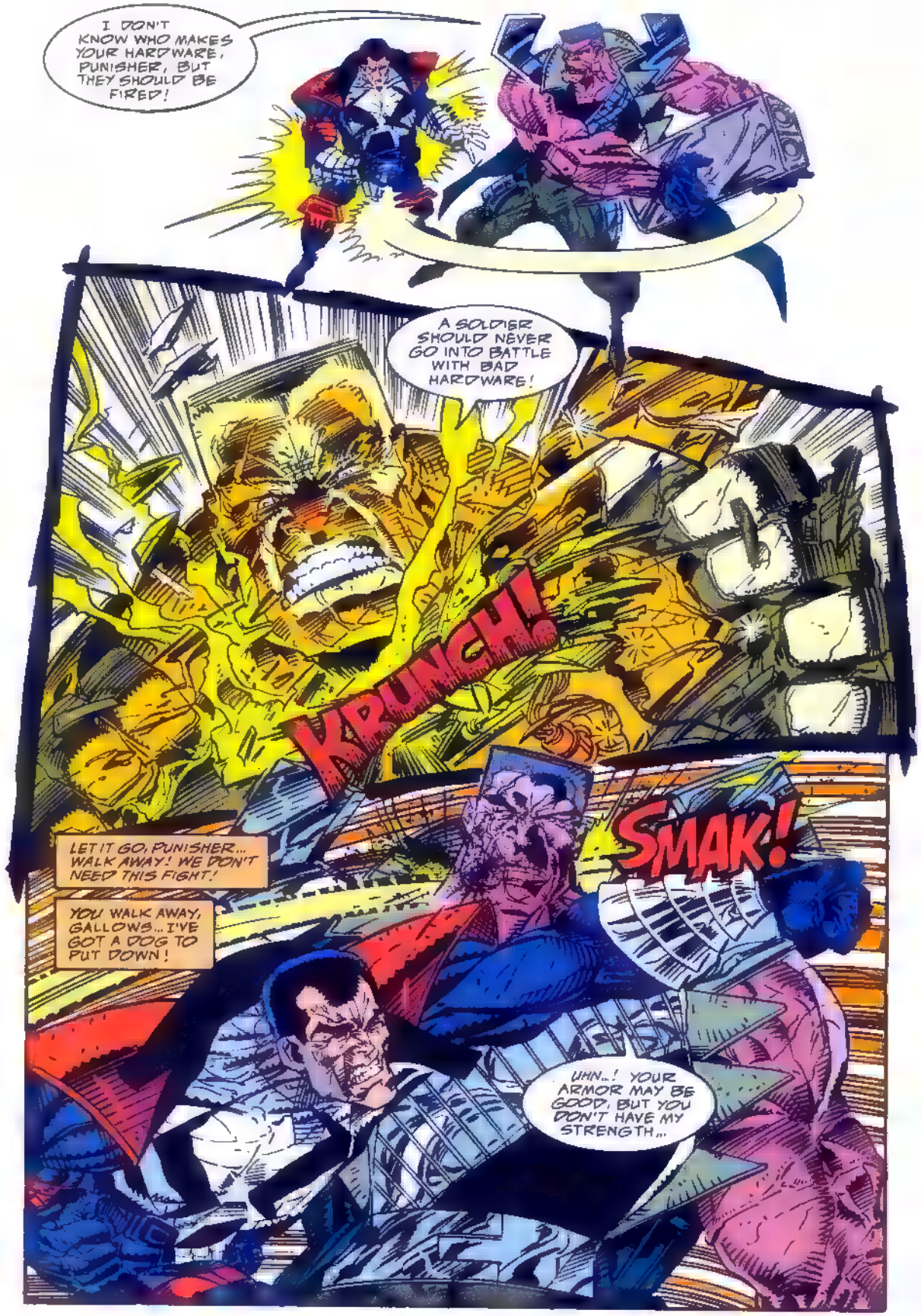
WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S USING A HOLO-CLOAKING DEVICE...
SKREEECH!
HEAT SEEKERS ON!
FIRE!
ZWOOSH
ZWOOSH
AUGHH!

SABER HAGEN..! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE... I'VE HEARD THE SOB STORY...
...AND YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE!
NO, PUNISHER.. AT LEAST TALK TO HIM FIRST... THERE MAY BE ANOTHER WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS...
BUTT OUT, GALLOWS! A PUBLIC ENEMY'S MY ENEMY!
OKAY, PUNISHER... I THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS... BUT IF THIS IS THE WAY YOU WANT IT, IT SUITS ME.
I'VE KILLED SO MANY... ONE MORE WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

KPOW!
KPOW!
KPOW!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
THOOM
THOOM
BUDDA!
CHAKK!
CHAKK!
CHAKK!


I SEE YOU'RE ARMORED ...IT'S THE BEST I'VE SEEN...
BUT YOU'LL NOTICE --I'M A RED DOG-- SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO SETTLE THIS WITH BULLETS!
CHAKKA!
CHAKKA!
CHAKKA!
THAT'S RIGHT, BUTT-HEAD... I'M GONNA USE THE PLASMA CANNON... NOW THAT I'M CLOSE ENOUGH, THERE'S NO DANGER OF ENERGY DISPERSAL.
RED DOG OR NOT --YOU'RE VAPOR!
IS THIS THE ONLY WAY MEN LIKE US CAN TALK?
YES.
HOW GOOD'S YOUR HISTORY, PUNISHER?
WHO DO YOU THINK WAS REALLY TO BLAME? HITLER? OR THE ELECTORATE WHO VOTED HIM IN... AND TURNED A BLIND EYE TO HIS CRIMES?
AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S THE PUBLIC WHO ARE TO BLAME EVERY TIME!
SAVE YOUR SPEECHES FOR THE AFTER-LIFE, RED DOG...
...GOODBYE.


KLIK!
OH!


I DON'T KNOW WHO MAKES YOUR HARDWARE, PUNISHER, BUT THEY SHOULD BE FIRED!
A SOLDIER SHOULD NEVER GO INTO BATTLE WITH BAD HARDWARE!
KRUNCH!
SMAK!
LET IT GO, PUNISHER... WALK AWAY! WE DON'T NEED THIS FIGHT!
YOU WALK AWAY, GALLOWS... I'VE GOT A DOG TO PUT DOWN!
UHN...! YOUR ARMOR MAY BE GOOD, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE MY STRENGTH...

..OR SPEED!
YOU'RE JUST A NORMAL, PUNISHER!
LOOK! IT'S THE PUBLIC ENEMY!
PASS THE WORD! IT'S THE PUBLIC ENEMY!
WHUMP!
MOST OF ME MIGHT BE NORMAL, PUBLIC ENEMY...
..BUT I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT...

KA-POW
...MY RIGHT HOOK!
THAT WON'T STOP HIM! HE'S A RED DOG!
NOBODY'S SAFE WHILE HE'S ON THE STREETS!
IT'S TUNGSTEN POLYMER WITH MICRO-FUSION MOTORS...
MATT OBVIOUSLY NEVER GOT AROUND TO SABOTAGING IT, LIKE HE DID MY PLASMA CANNON!
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

KRUNCH!
IT'S GOOD... IT'S REAL GOOD... BUT I'M A RED DOG -- THE LAST OF MY KIND!
I WAS GENETICALLY BRED TO DEAL WITH GIZMOS LIKE THAT!
THE PUNISHER'S DOWN -- LET'S GET THE RED DOG!
YEAH -- HE KILLED MY BROTHER IN THE SHOPPING MALL!
AND BLEW MY COUSIN AWAY, TOO! HE WAS JUST STANDING THERE, WATCHING!
WE GOTTA GET HIM BEFORE HE STARTS ON US!
NO! YOU PEOPLE STAY BACK -- HE'S DANGEROUS!
LEAVE THIS TO ME!
NO CAN DO, PUNISHER!
HE KILLED TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO STAYED BACK AND LEFT IT TO SOMEONE ELSE!
YEAH! WE GOTTA DEAL WITH HIM OURSELVES!

YEAH--COME ON, YOU COWARDS! FIGHT ME! YOU NEVER KNOW--ENOUGH OF YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE ME DOWN!
GIVE IT TO HIM! THERE'S ENOUGH OF US!
KILL HIM! RIP HIM APART!
B#!C%!!G! KILL! KILL THE B#!C%!
YES! ATTACK ME! KILL ME! AVENGE YOURSELVES! STOP ME FROM HARMING YOUR FAMILIES!
YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELVES!

GOOD! THAT'S THE WAY...
AT LAST... AT LAST YOU'VE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD!
AND MY WORK...
...IS...
...DONE.
THE PUBLIC ENEMY SAID HE WAS THE SAME AS ME.
HE WAS NOTHING LIKE ME--HE WAS A LOSER!
I'D LIKE TO HAVE PUNISHED HIM MYSELF!
BUT I'LL SAVE THAT PLEASURE FOR THAT TRAITOR --MATT AXEL!
TO BE CONTINUED!